

The City of Austin encourages people to get out of their cars and choose sustainable options such as transit, biking and walking. This helpful guide provides some tips for bicycling in the City of Austin.



Remember:

Cyclists have all the rights and are subject to all the responsibilities and regulations applicable to drivers of motor vehicles.



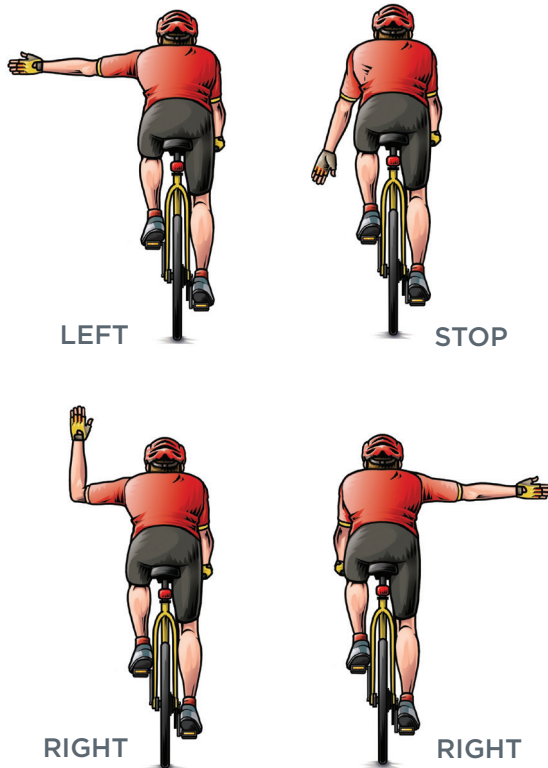
Austin Transportation Department
austintexas.gov/smarttrips

**Bike Smart
AUSTIN**

Bike Safety

- Be predictable. Use hand signals to help make others aware of your movements.
- Wear a helmet.
- Use your bell to alert drivers, pedestrians and other cyclists to your presence.
- Ride with traffic, not against it.
- Use a white headlight and a red taillight.
- Stop at red lights and stop signs.
- Yield to pedestrians.
- Use marked bike lanes or paths when available.
- Avoid the door zone or the space where an open car door extends beyond a car parked at the curb.

Cyclist's Hand Signals



Bike Laws

- **Vulnerable User Law:** The ordinance requires protection for walkers, runners, and wheelchair users attempting to cross the street by requiring drivers to yield to pedestrians who are attempting to cross the street at a marked crosswalk. Bicyclists must obey yield signs, stop signs, one-way street designations, and traffic lights.
- **Safe Passing Law:** An operator of a motor vehicle passing a vulnerable road user operating on a highway or street shall:
 1. Vacate the lane in which the vulnerable road user is located if the highway has two or more marked lanes running in the same direction; or
 2. Pass the vulnerable road user at a safe distance.
 3. For the purpose of Subsection (b) (2), when road conditions allow, safe distance is at least:
 - a. three feet if the operator's vehicle is a passenger car or light truck; or
 - b. six feet if the operator's vehicle is a truck, other than a light truck, or a commercial motor vehicle as defined by Texas Transportation Code Section 522.003.
- **Hands Free Law:** Use of portable devices while driving a car or biking is a citable offense. The use of hands-free systems such as bluetooth or headphones or a GPS system is not recommended while driving or biking.



Know Your Lanes

- **Sharrows:** These lanes are used by cyclists and motorists at the same time. They are marked by "sharrows" and signs.



- **Bike Lanes:** These lanes are painted on the road, usually next to the parking or motor vehicle lane, and are marked with bike symbols. Some lanes have a buffer to further separate cyclists from moving vehicles.

Prevent Theft

- Use a U-lock or heavy chain.
- Lock your wheels to your frame.
- Lock bike only to designated bike racks or corrals where available.
- Avoid leaving your bike locked up in the same place for a long period of time.
- Register your bike with the Austin Police Department. This makes it easier to identify stolen bikes and their rightful owners. You can register your bike online at this link: austintexas.gov/page/bike-registration or with the Austin Police Department in person.
- Remove or lock lights and accessories on your bicycle.